

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 31, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 49-50 mirror original claims 17 and 25, 28-31, which were examined and subsequently cancelled without prejudice in Response to the Office Action dated May 17, 2007. Accordingly, the entry of such claims would not require further search or consideration. Applicants point out that every word in the new claims is included in the previously presented claims, including Formula I. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the new claims for purposes of appeal.

OBJECTIONS:

The claim numbering stands objected to. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim numbering has been corrected and request removal of the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 38-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants have cancelled claims 38-48, thereby obviating the rejection.

Claims 38-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 96/11218 (*Collina*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,734,267 (*Chang*), U.S. Patent No. 4,587,227 (*Smith*) and New J. Chem. 2002 (*Lin*). The Office Action states that it "is noted that *Collina* does not expressly teach the impregnation of the catalyst to the porous polymer beads under reduced pressure and the preparation of the porous ethylene polymer beads in the presence of a polystyrene supported ion based complex of formula (I)". The Office Action further states that *Lin* "teaches the preparation of polyethylene porous beads in the presence of a polystyrene supported iron based complex which provide improved morphology". However, neither of the Office Actions provided specific support for the rejection of the claims regarding specific phenyl substitutions, as

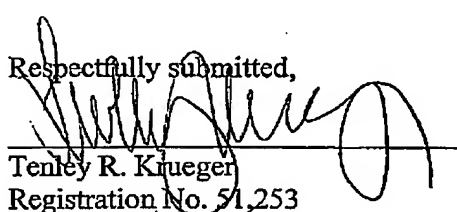
show or suggest the specific phenyl substitution recited in the new claims. *Lin* teaches specific structures substituted with two pyridine substituents and one C₃ alkyl substituent (*see*, structures on page 16). Accordingly, *Lin* does not teach, show or suggest the features missing from *Collina* (in particular, the phenyl substitutions).

Applicants further submit that, in contrast to embodiments of the present invention, the primary reference, *Collina*, relies upon deactivation of the first catalyst species. *Collina* further teaches in-situ activation of the second catalyst species (*see*, page 14, first paragraph). In contrast, claim 51 recites activating the supported catalyst component with an activating agent prior to supplying ethylene to a reaction zone containing said supported catalyst component. Based on the arguments provided herein and in previous responses to the Office Actions, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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